

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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April 4, 2005

Dear Nebraska School Official:

Thank you for your interest in the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Survey! In 2003, 32,000 Nebraska students attending 146 different school districts in 65 participated in the inaugural implementation of this important biennial survey. The state and community-level data generated by the report has been invaluable in assisting schools and communities to conduct data-driven planning efforts to reduce substance abuse and delinquency and promote positive life outcomes for all youth.

The Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Health and Human Services will once again be administering the survey this fall on behalf of Nebraska Partners in Prevention, the Governor's State Advisory Council on Substance Abuse Prevention. **The 2005 NRPFS Survey has been scheduled for implementation October 17 to 28th**, and schools may schedule the survey for the date within that time period that best fits their needs. As always, survey participation is voluntary, and a school/community data report will be provided to your school district at no cost. All the materials you will need to register for the 2005 NRPFS Survey are included in this packet:

- School Participation Form (to be completed and returned by May 31, 2005)
- A Data Collection and Report Form for schools with less than 25 students per grade in the surveyed grades
- A Data Collection and Report Form for schools with at least 25 students per grade in the surveyed grades
- A copy of the 2003 NRPFS Survey
- Sample School Data Report from the NRPFS Survey
- Survey Fact Sheet for Schools
- Survey Fact Sheet for Parents
- Two sample notification letters for parents
- A State map illustrating 2003 NRPFS Survey participation by county
- Survey Administration Instructions

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The 2005 survey will follow the same format as the 2003 survey, with the addition of a set of questions to measure student use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs. A copy of the 2005 survey will be sent to you as soon as it is finalized. Training and technical assistance for teachers and any other staff who will be administering the survey will be provided, and will be scheduled for early fall, 2005.

The NRPFS Survey utilizes passive parental consent. According to the general notification requirements of the Protection of Pupil Rights Act (Statute: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h. Regulations: 34 CFR Part 98), when implementing surveys that contain questions from one or more of the eight protected areas but which are not funded in whole or part by Department funds, LEAs must notify the parents or guardians of students at least annually at the beginning of the school year of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when it will administer the survey(s). In addition, LEAs must also 1) notify parents that they have the right to review, upon request, any survey that concerns one or more of the eight protected areas, and 2) provide an opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt his or her child out of participating.

The sample notification parent letters included in this packet are provided for your use or adaptation in meeting the PPRA requirement. Other means of parental notification could include information in a school newsletter or publication that is sent to the home of every participating student, or a notice from the teacher of each student in the classrooms that will be taking the survey.

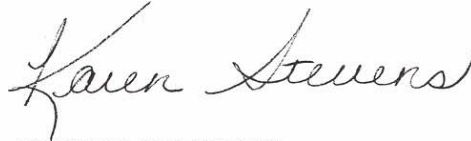
All survey materials are available online at the Nebraska Partners in Prevention website at www.nebraskaprevention.gov and at the Nebraska Department of Education website at www.nde.state.ne.us/sdfs/index.html. Should you need additional materials, or have questions or comments about the survey, please feel free to contact Laurie Sutter at (402) 479-5573, or by email at laurie.sutter@hhss.ne.gov. If you have questions regarding how the survey data can be used for school planning and improvement, please contact Karen Stevens at (402) 471-2448 or by email at kstevens@nde.state.ne.us. An additional contact for questions regarding survey logistics is Faith Mills at (402) 479-5576 or by email at faith.mills@hhss.ne.gov.

Thanks again for your partnership in this important endeavor!

Sincerely,



LAURIE BARGER SUTTER
Behavioral Health Prevention Manager
Nebraska Health and Human Services



KAREN STEVENS
Safe and Drug-Free Schools Project Director
Nebraska Department of Education